(c) whether any public or private oil company has laid down gas pipeline network for transportation of gas from KG Basin to other parts of the country as also for consumption by domestic industry and retail consumers of Andhra Pradesh State in particular; and

(d) if so, the areas in Andhra Pradesh where gas pipeline network passes through?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINESH J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2006, the estimated in place gas reserves in Krishna-Godavari basin by Public Sector, *viz.*, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Private Sector, *viz.*, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is 154 billion cubic metres (BCM) and 507 billion cubic metres (BCM) respectively. Gas produced so far as on 1.4.2006 by ONGC is 18.67 BCM. RIL is expected to commence its production from June 2008 onwards.

(c) and (d) In KG basin GAIL (India) Limited is operating gas pipeline network of 833.9 Kilometres passing through three districts of Andhra Pradesh *viz*, East Godavari, West Godawari and Krishna.

LPG agency at block level

†1441. SHRI KRISHNA LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open gas agency at Block level and Tehsil level; and

(b) if so, by when the same would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorship in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 791 locations for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate any specific time frame for setting up of new LPG distributorships.

Marketing of ethanol blended petrol

1442. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ethanol mixed petrol is planned to be marketed by oil companies in selected cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof including ratio of mixture, retail price, effect on environment etc; and

(c) whether ethanol is available in sufficient quantity in the country and the annual saving of foreign exchange anticipated by this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 580(E) dated 20.9.2006 has directed that subject to commercial viability, oil marketing companies shall sell 5 percent ethanol blended petrol, as per Bureau of Indian Standards specification, in the notified 20 States and 4 Union Territories, comprising of the entire country except North Eastern States, J & K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep *w.e.f.* 1.11.2006.

(b) Oil Marketing Companies are procuring ethanol from indigenous producers through open tenders with validity for three years extendable by two more years which are under finalisation. The retail prices of 5% ethanol blended petrol and petrol are the same. When the ethanol blended petrol used in the vehicles, as compared to the use of petrol, there was reduction of carbon monoxide (CO) & hydrocarbons and slight increase in nitrous oxide amounting to overall reduction of Green House Gases (GHGs).

(c) The requirement of ethanol for implementation of 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme through out the country is approx. 0.56 million/KL per annum. The Oil Marketing Companies are in the process of finalising the tenders for supply of ethanol. India does not import petrol. There is, therefore